

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: ETRD, YO, PN,

SUBJ: PANAMA-YUGOSLAVIA ECONOMIC COMMUNIQUE

REF: (A) FBIS 280221Z JUNE 1975 (B) FBIS 280232Z JUNE 1975

1. ONE JUNE 26, 1975, PANAMA AND YUGOSLAVIA SIGNED A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED IN THE REFERENCED FBIS REPORT, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOUR-DAY VISIT OF A YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC MISSION. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC SECTION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PANAMA'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AURELIO BARRIA, COMMENTED ON THE YUGOSLAV VISIT. BARRIA SAID THE DELEGATION VISITED THE CHAMBER, BUT GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING UNUSED TO DEALING WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. HE DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT TO PANAMA AS PRIMARILY POLITICAL IN NATURE. THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION'S VISIT WAS HANDLED BY PANAMA'S LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION, WHICH GENERALLY HOSTS DELEGATIONS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

2. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE YUGOSLAV INTEREST CENTERED ON
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THE PURCHASE OF PANAMANIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND IN SELLING

A WIDE VARIETY OF ITEMS (SEE REF FOR COMPLETE LIST) INCLUDING:
AGRICULTURAL, FOOD PROCESSING, ELECTRICAL, TELECOMMUNICATION AND
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GOP'S PORT
AUTHORITY FOR SHIPYARD, DRY DOCK OR FISHING PORT CONSTRUCTION;
COOPERATION IN MINING AND MINERALS INDUSTRIES AND IN TOURISM
AND SALES OF YUGOSLAV PHARMACEUTICALS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF
MANUFACTURING THEM IN PANAMA. HOWEVER, BARRIA SAID THAT THE
DELEGATION WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ANY SOURCES WHEN REQUESTS WERE
MADE FOR CONTACTS IN OBTAINING SPECIFIC ITEMS AND THAT IN THE
PAST LETTERS TO YUGOSLAV SUPPLIERS HAD NOT BEEN ANSWERED.

3. FYI. YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN PANAMA HAS BEEN SIGNIFI-
CANT LATELY. THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MATUTINO CARRIED ON JUNE
24 A PRESS RELEASE FROM PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA REPORT-
ING FAVORABLE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF PANAMANIAN
BANANAS TO THAT COUNTRY, MADE BY THE GOP BANANA CORPORATION OF
THE PACIFIC. ON JUNE 30 IT SHIPPED ANOTHER 130,000 BOXES ALONG
WITH 30,000 GALLONS OF CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE PRODUCED BY
CITRICOS DE CHIRQUI, WHICH WAS ACQUIRED BY THE GOP AFTER
RECENTLY GOING BANKRUPT AS A PRIVATE U.S. OWNED CONCERN.
YUGOSLAV CONTRACTORS RECENTLY COMPLETED GRADING WORK FOR THE NEW
AIRPORT RUNWAY, AND ANOTHER YUGOSLAV CONTRACTOR IS BUILDING THE
DAM FOR THE BAYANO HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. STORIES OF YUGOSLAV
INTEREST IN A SECOND PETROLEUM REFINERY HAVE APPEARED IN THE LOCAL
PRESS, BUT TO DATE NOTHING DEFINITE HAS DEVELOPED.
GONZALEZ

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